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## HITOPADESHA

-Choice of Friends and other stories



Narayana, the author of *Hitopadesha*, has drawn most of his material from Pandit Vishnu Sharma's *Panchatantra*, *Panchatantra* was written between the second and third centuries B.C. but *Hitopadesha* came much later. Narayana reconstructed the first three *tantras* and added about fifteen new tales. The *raison d'etre* of both books remains the same.

A certain Indian King was perturbed that his three sons were averse to any kind of learning. Taking the advice of his counsellors, the king sends the princes to one Vishnu Sharma, who was not only a learned Brahman but was also a remarkable teacher. Within a short period of six months, the pandit instructs the princes in the art of politics and wordly wisdom, by telling them stories about bird, beast and man. Each character in his stories becomes a vehicle of some precept, either directly or indirectly.

In the Panchatantra these stories are divided into five books. Narayana's work, however, has only four—Mitralabha, Suhridbheda, Vigraha and Sandhi. Our Amar Chitra Katha has been adapted from the first book— Mitralabha or Winning of Friends.

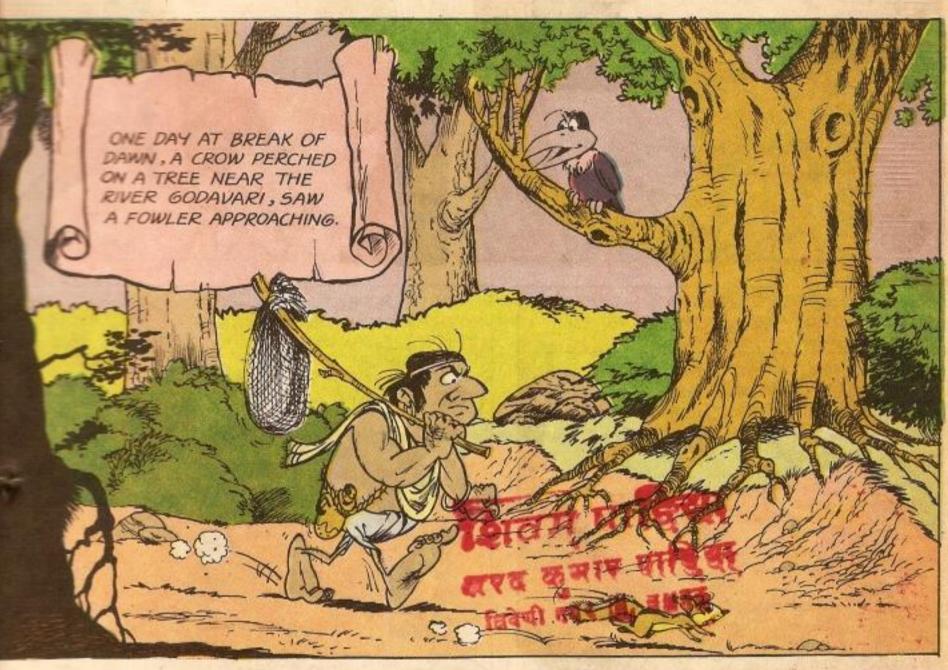
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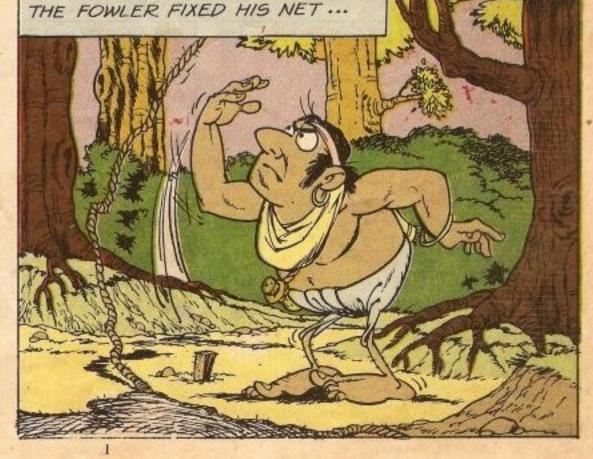
Published by H.G. Mirchandani, for India Book House Education Trust, 29, Wodehouse Road, Bombay-400 039 and printed by H.K. Nasta at IBH Printers, Marol Naka, Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay-400 059.

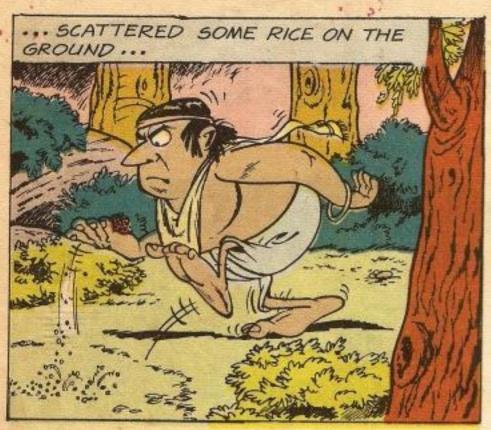
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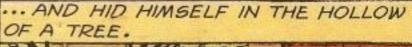
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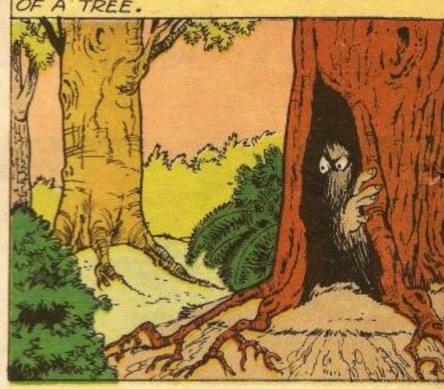






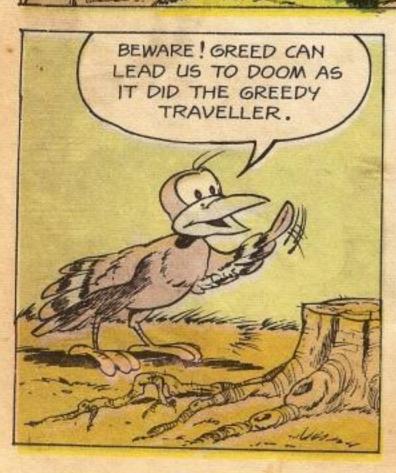








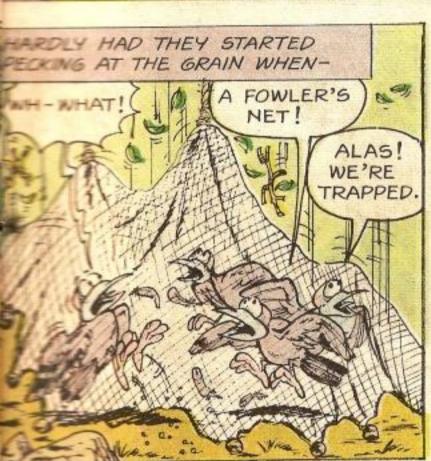
















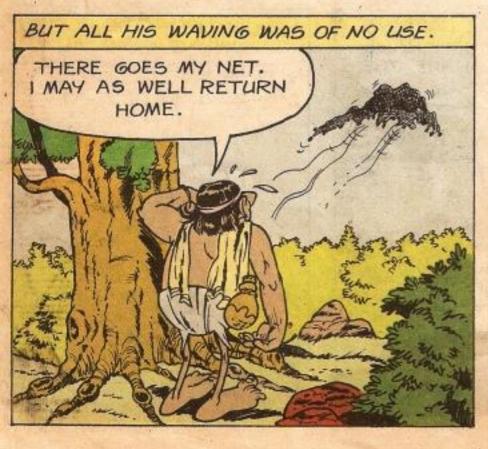






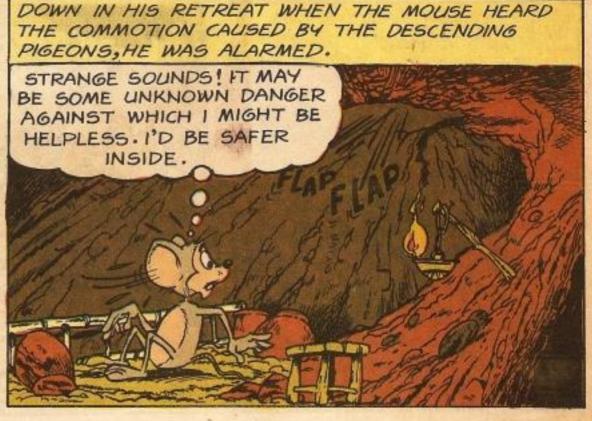




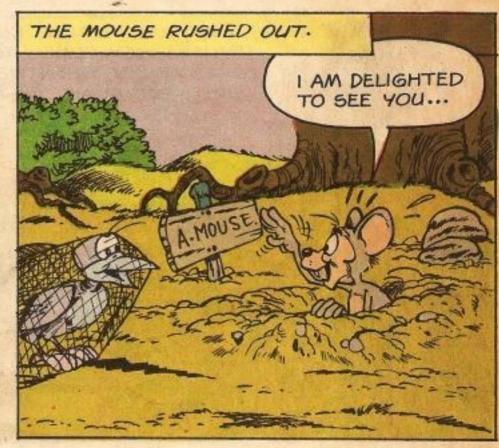






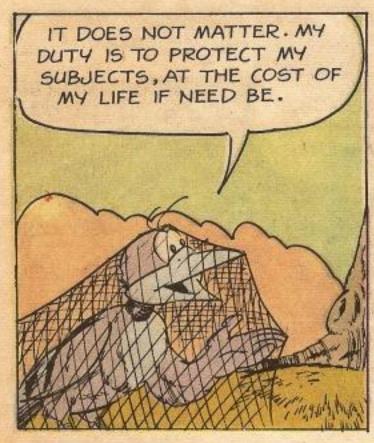






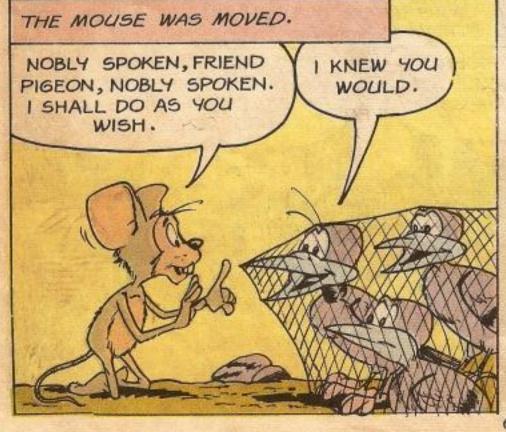


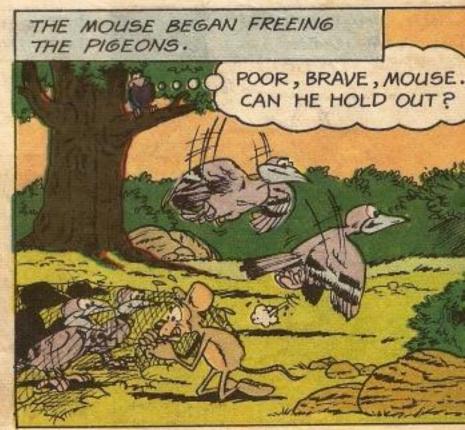




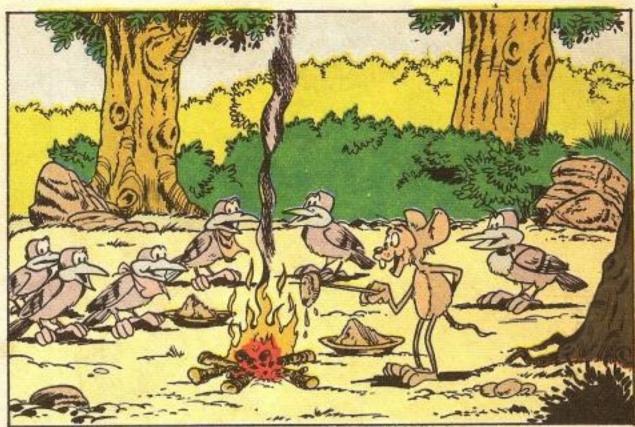


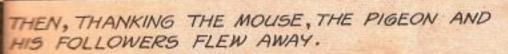


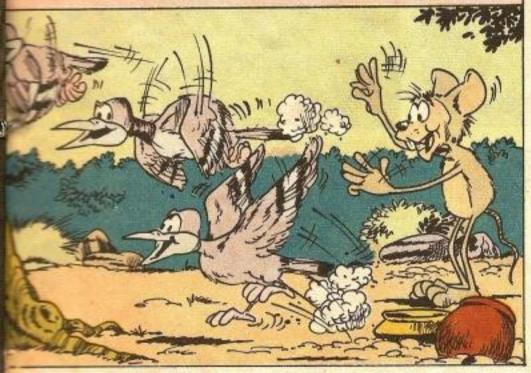




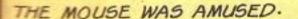








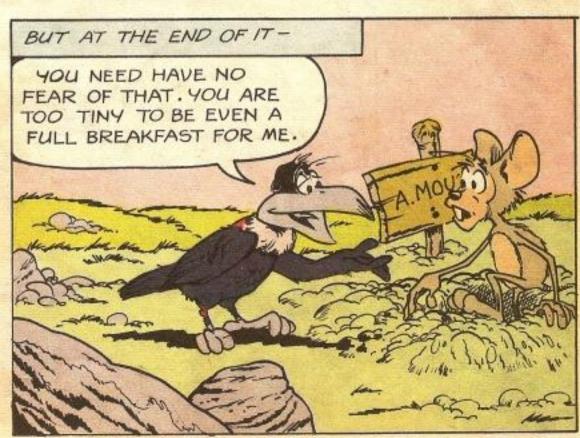




NATURAL FOOD. THE NEXT THING I KNOW, YOU WILL BE EATING ME. WE CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS.



AND THE MOUSE TOLD HIM THE STORY OF THE DEER, THE JACKAL AND THE CROW.\*



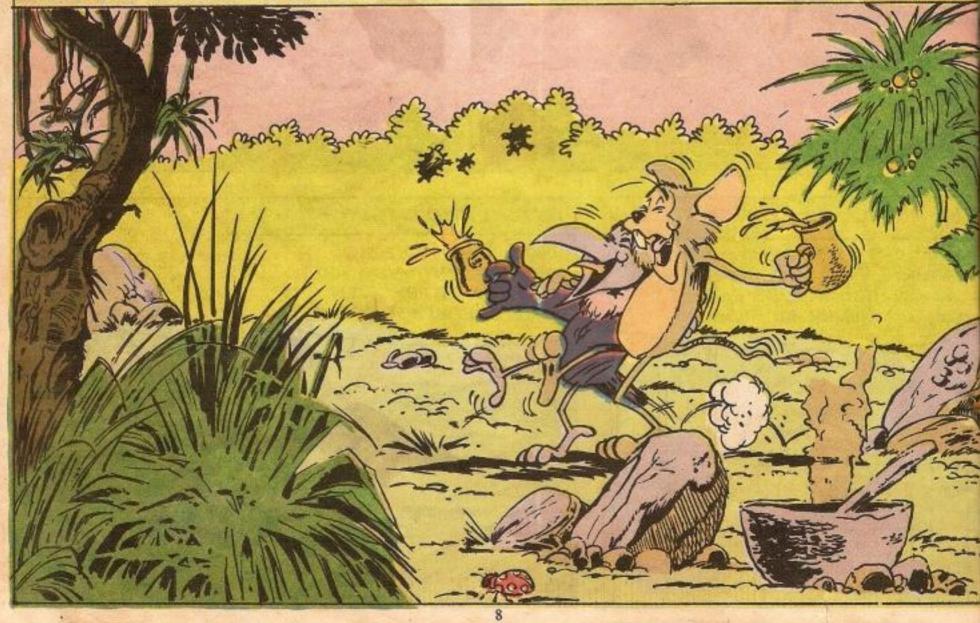


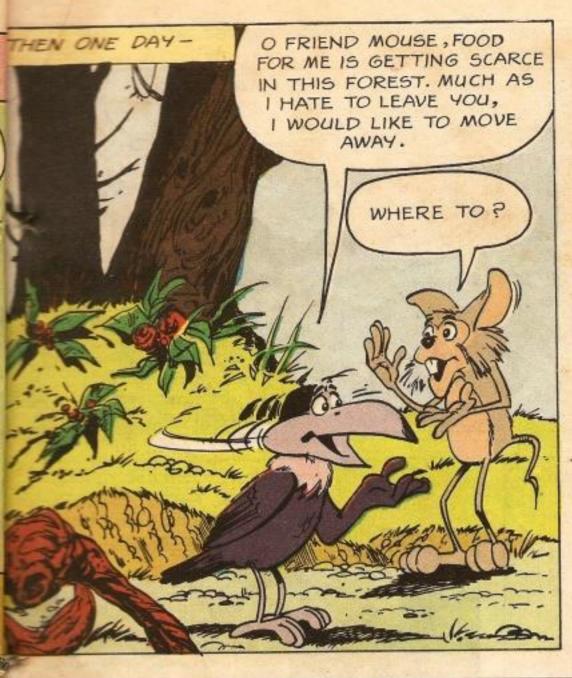
THE MOUSE WAS TOUCHED BY THE CROW'S DEVOTION.

COME MY FRIEND, LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU WITH THE BEST OF MY HOARD OF FOOD.

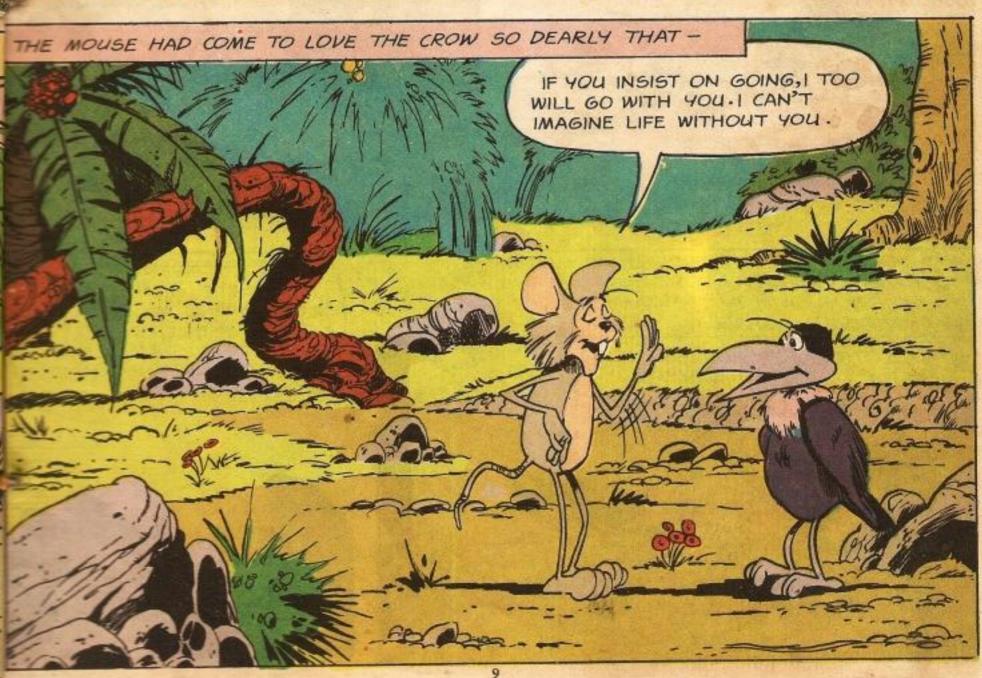


AND FROM THAT DAY THE TWO BECAME THE BEST OF FRIENDS, GIVING EACH OTHER THEIR CHOICE PICKINGS OF FOOD AND ANIMAL GOSSIP.

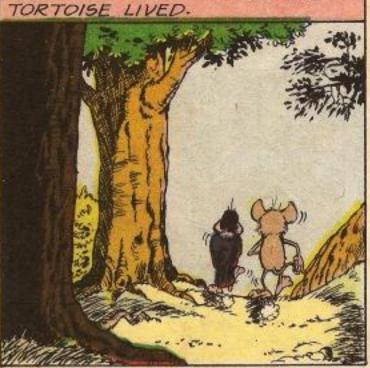


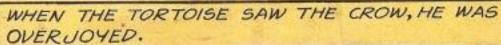


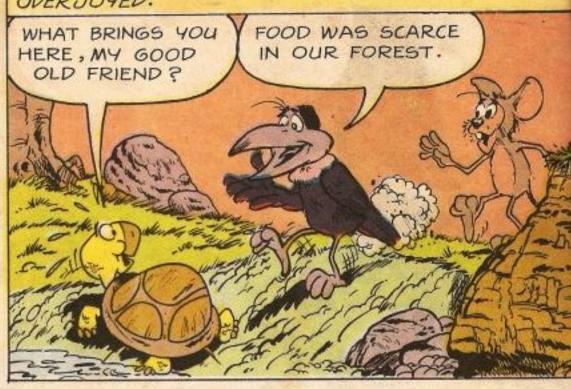
















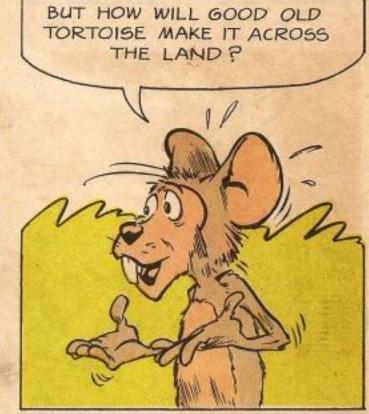
AND SO THE THREE FRIENDS LIVED HAPPILY TOGETHER . ONE DAY, AS THE TORTOISE WAS ABOUT TO GO FOR A SWIM IN THE TANK, A DEER CAME PANTING UP TO THEM.



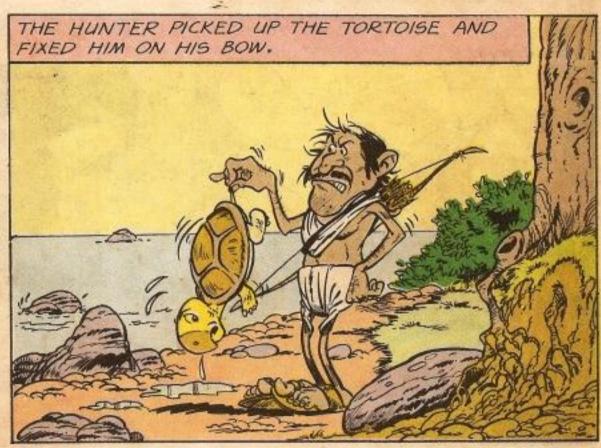
COME FRIEND, REFRESH
YOURSELF WITH SOME
GRASS AND WATER. MY
FRIENDS WILL LOOK
AFTER YOU. I AM GOING
FOR A SWIM AND SHALL
JOIN YOU LATER.



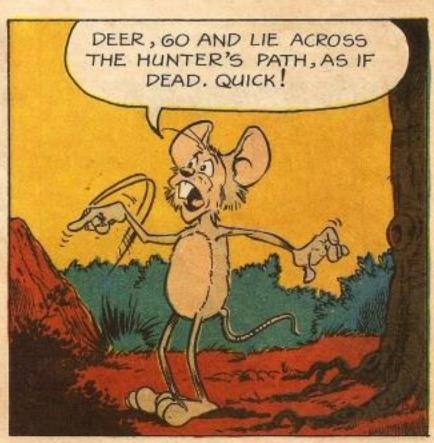


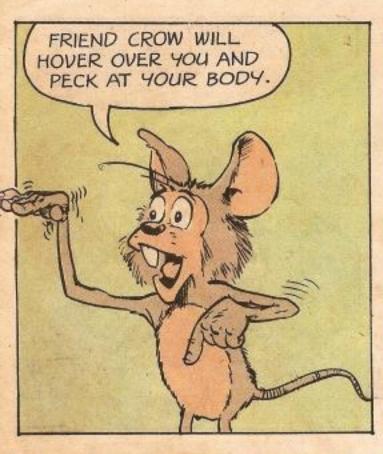


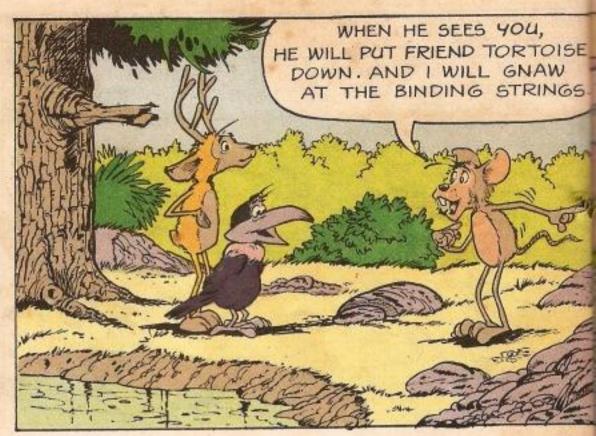




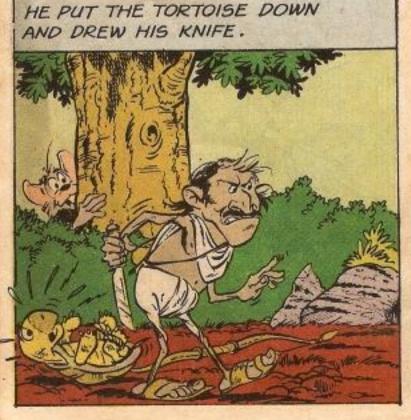


















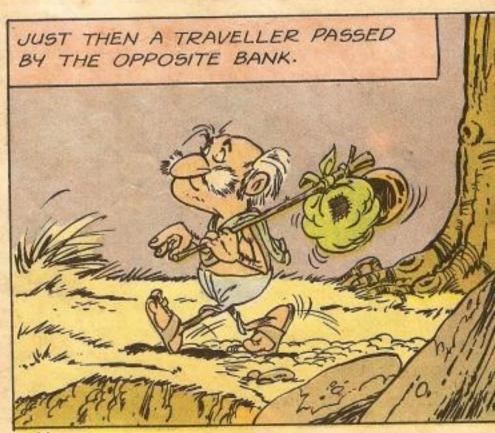




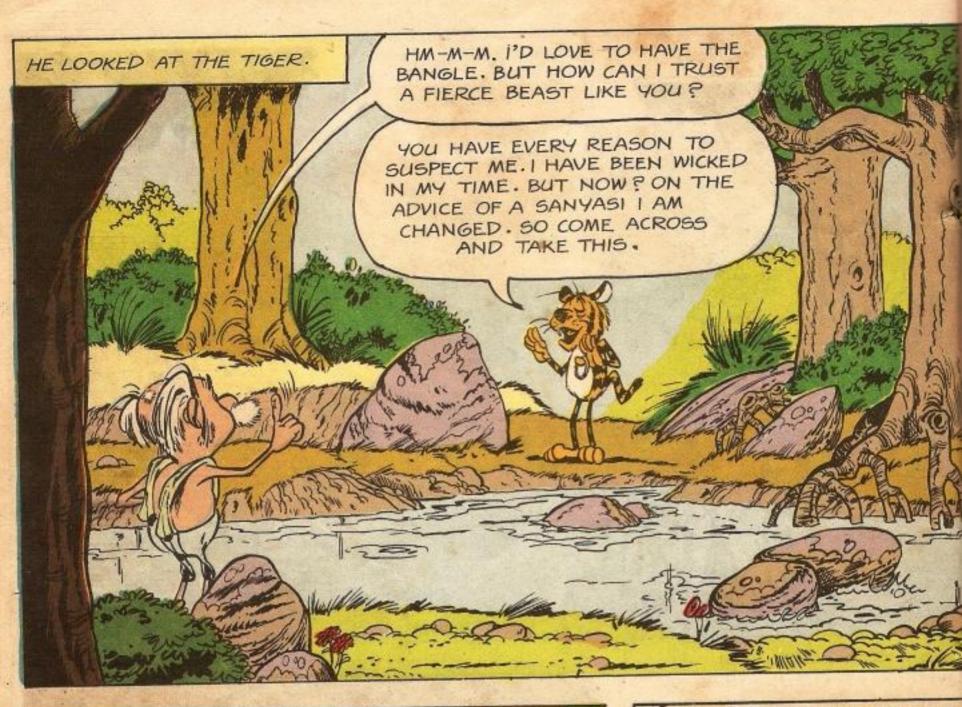


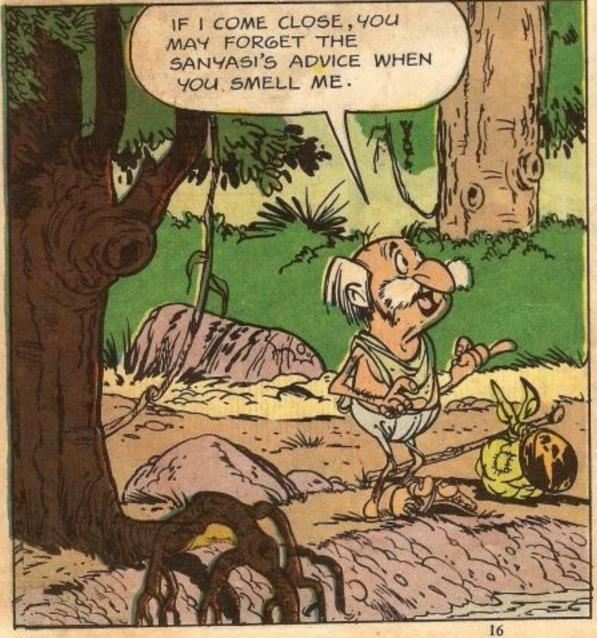






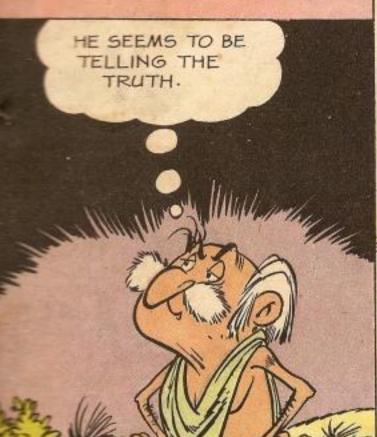


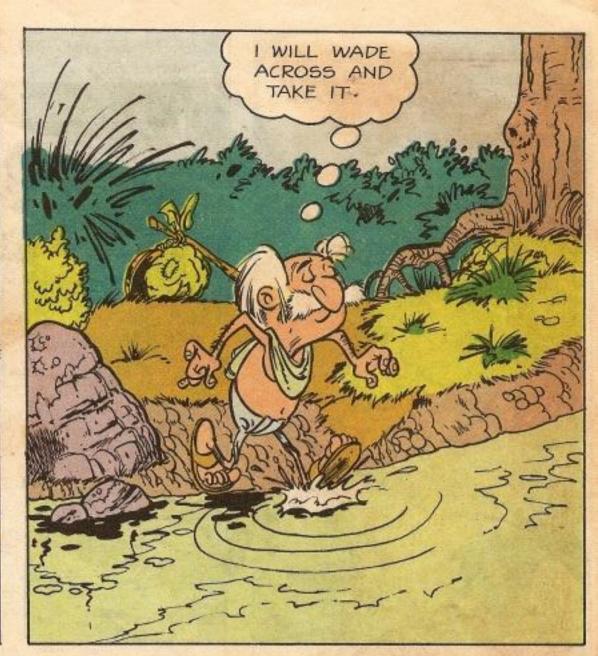


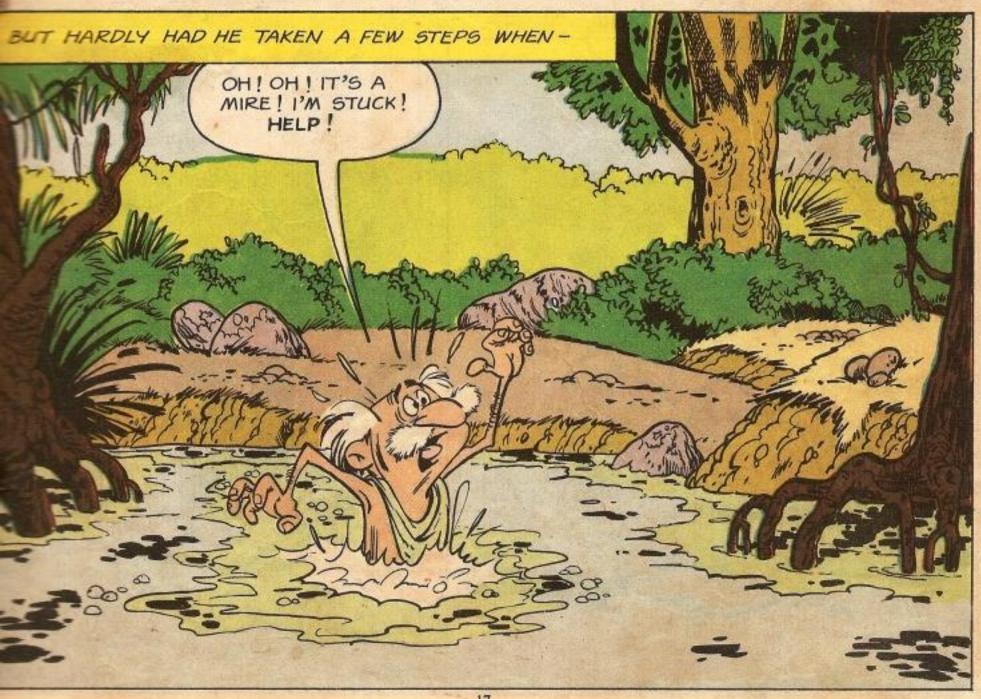




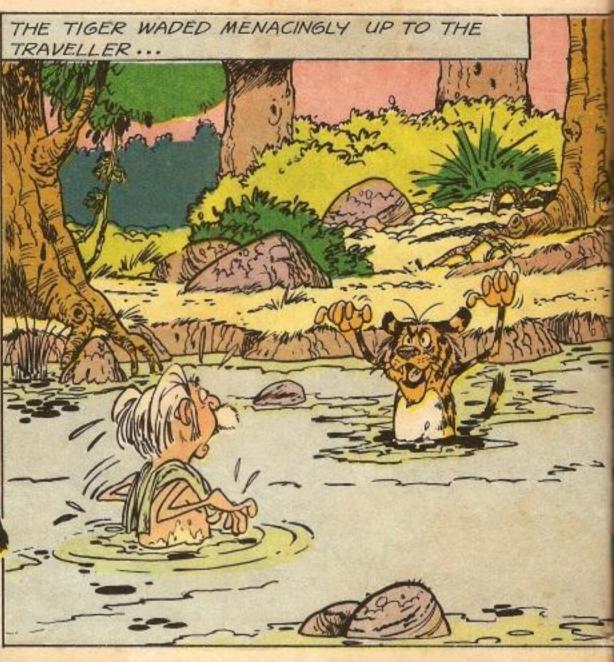
THE TRAVELLER'S LOVE OF SOLD OVERCAME HIS NATURAL FEAR OF THE TIGER.



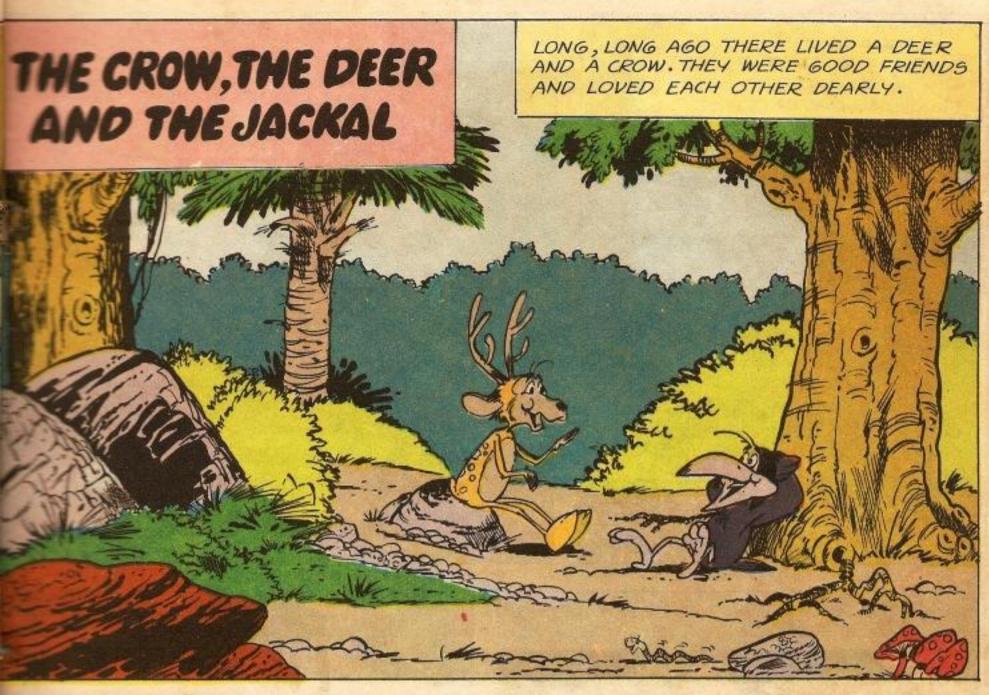


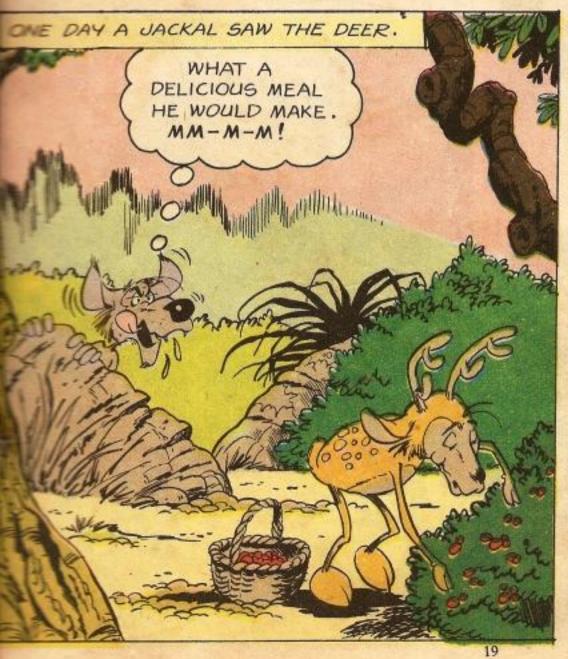


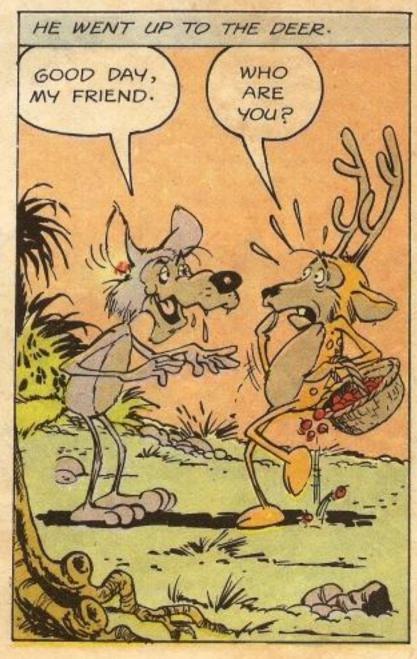




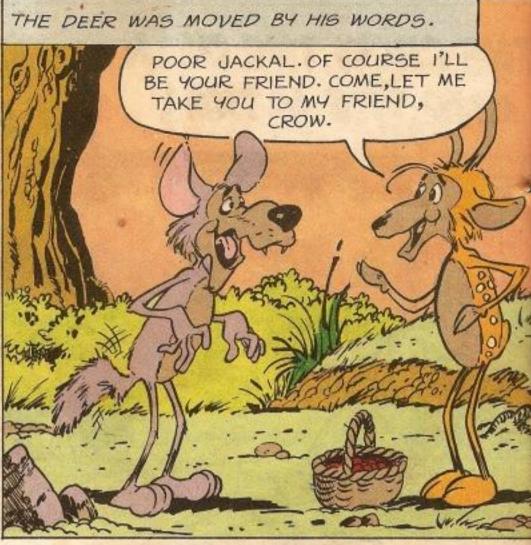


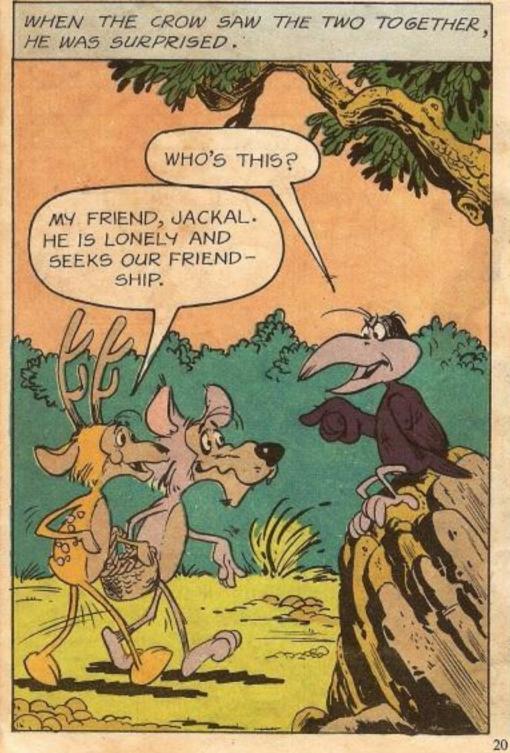






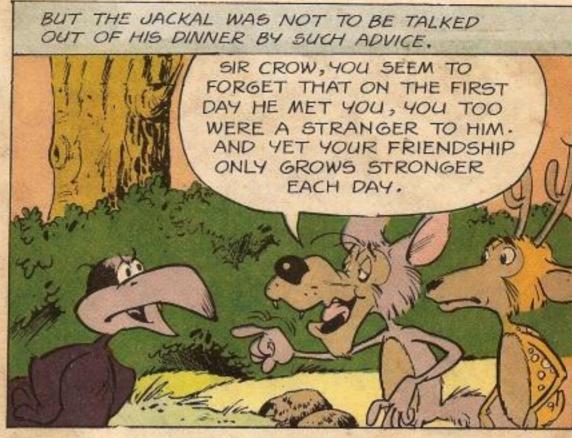


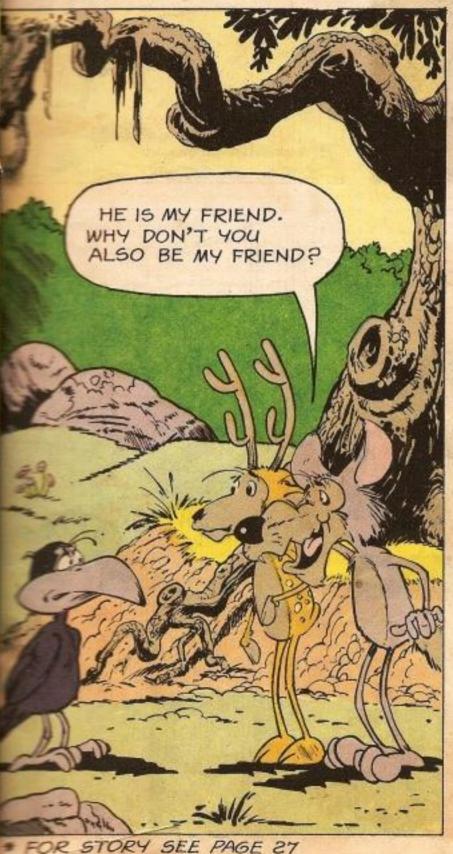


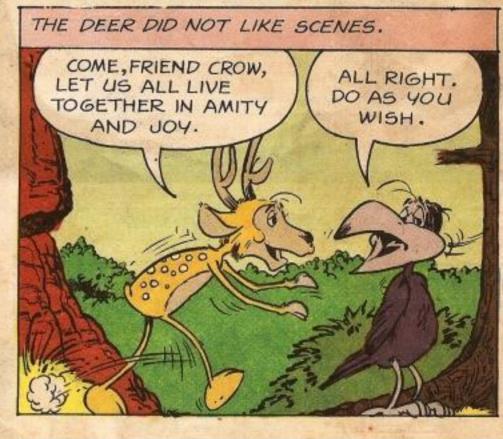


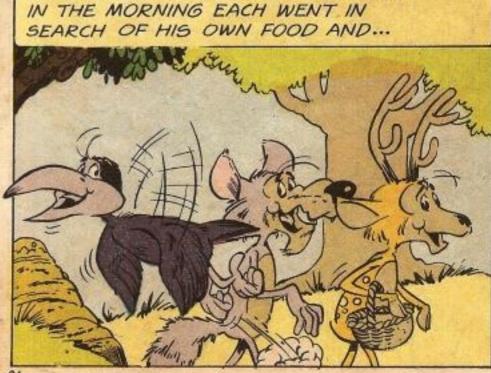




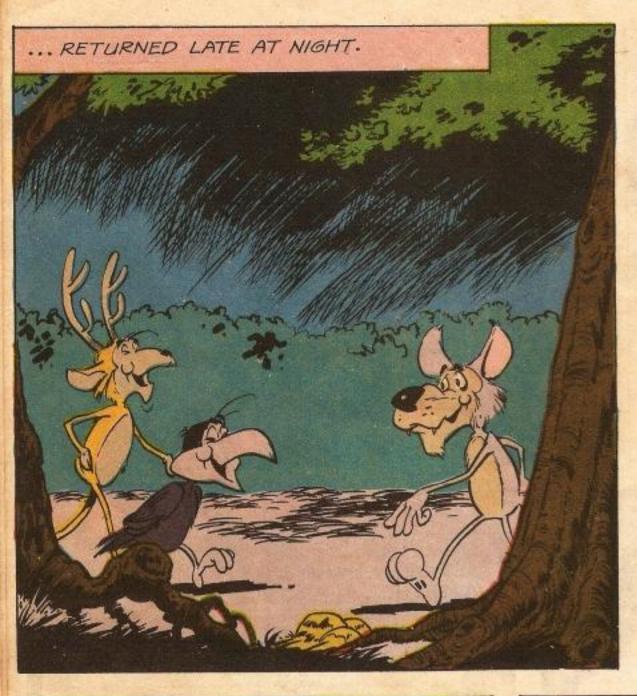








SO THEY BEGAN LIVING TOGETHER.

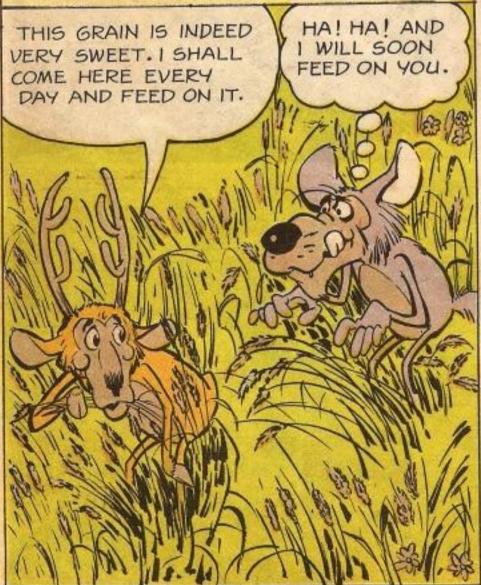


ONE MORNING A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN THE CROW HAD LEFT -

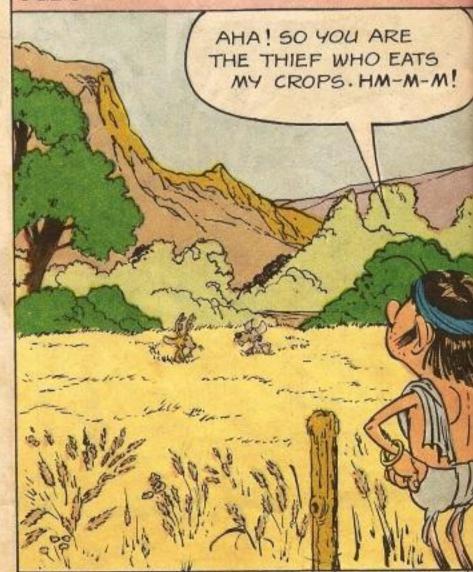
FRIEND DEER, IN ONE CORNER OF THIS FOREST THERE IS A FIELD FULL OF SWEET GRAIN LET ME SHOW IT TO YOU COME.



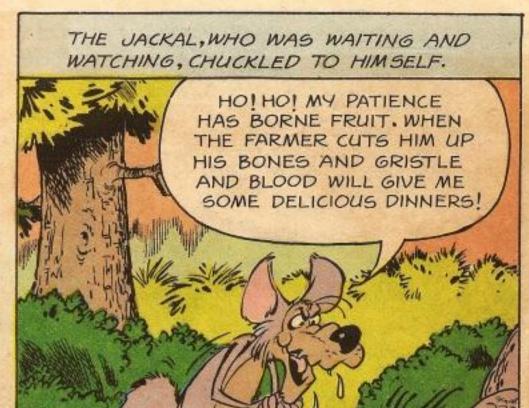
THE INNOCENT DEER ACCOMPANIED HIM AND GRAZED IN THE FIELD.



ONE DAY, AS THE JACKAL HAD HOPED, THE OWNER OF THE FIELD SAW THE DEER.



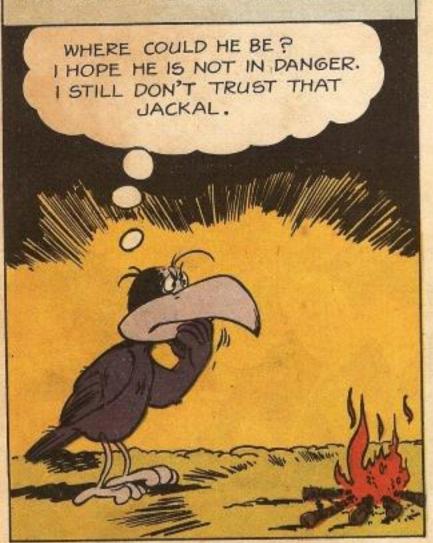








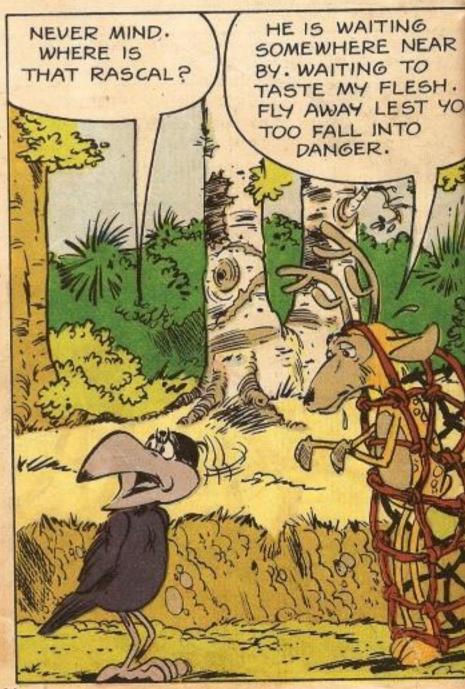
WHEN THE CROW RETURNED HOME THAT EVENING AND DID NOT SEE HIS FRIEND, HE WAS WORRIED.



AFTER SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR HIS FRIEND, HE CAME UPON THE FIELD.













DEDENLY AN IDEA STRUCK HIM.

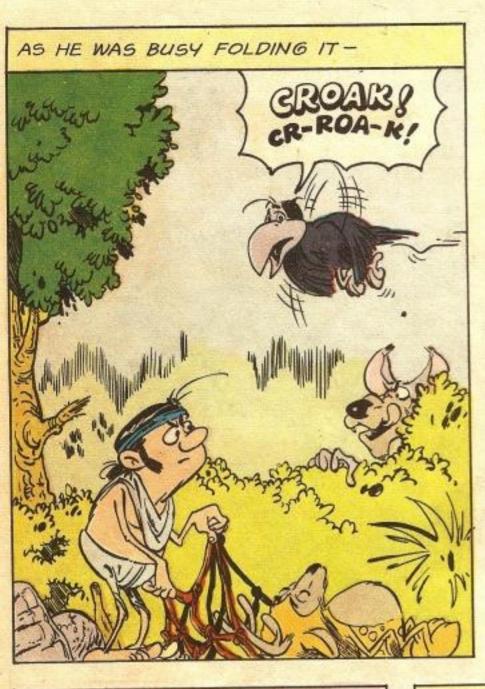
WEF YOUR STOMACH OUT,

HAVE IT! LIE ON YOUR BACK,

TIFFEN YOUR LEGS AND BE VERY TILL . I WILL PECK AT YOUR EYES.

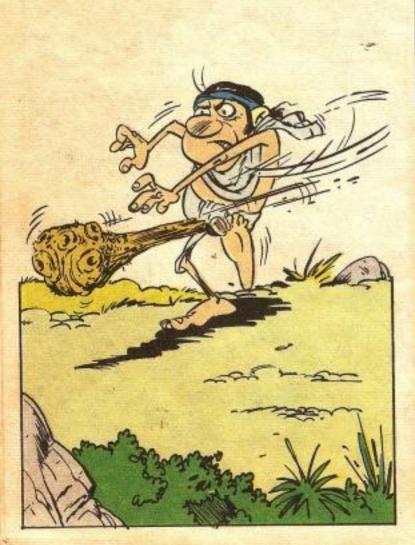






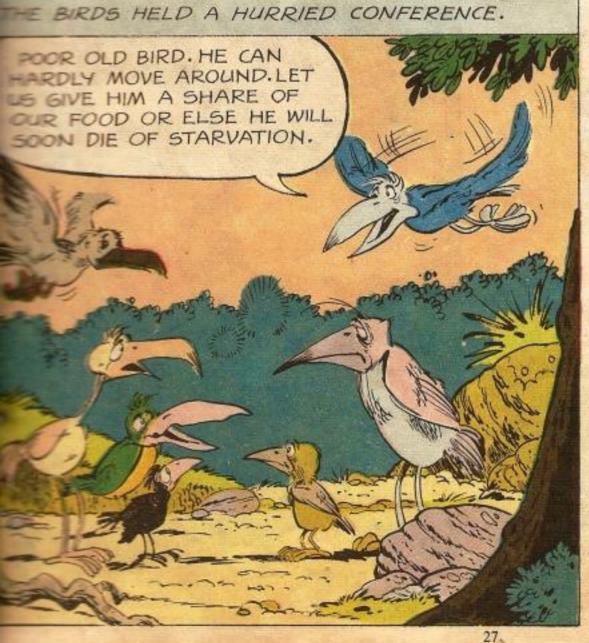


ANNOYED AT HAVING BEEN TRICKED, HE FLUNG HIS CLUB.



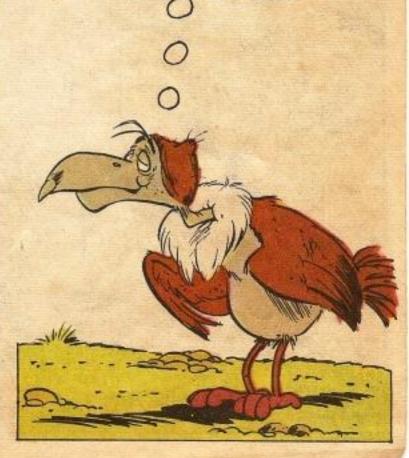






THE OLD VULTURE WAS TOUCHED BY THEIR KINDNESS.

I SHALL MAKE IT MY DUTY TO PROTECT THEIR YOUNG WHEN THEY ARE AWAY GATHERING FOOD.

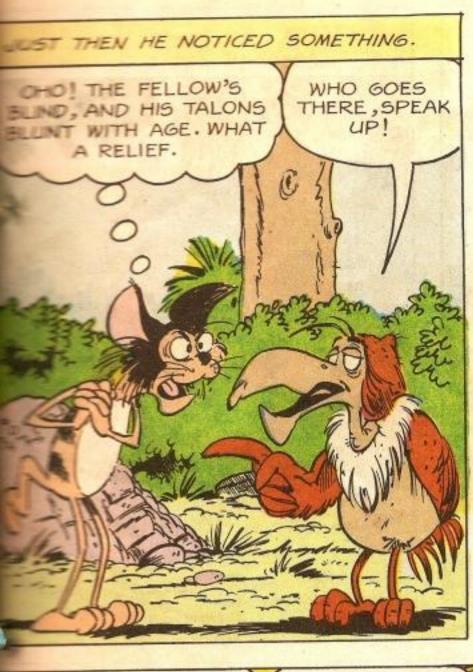


ONE DAY A CAT HAPPENED TO PASS BY, WHEN THE BIRDS WERE AWAY HE DID NOT SEE THE VULTURE WHO WAS NAPPING, PERCHED ON A HIGH BRANCH.

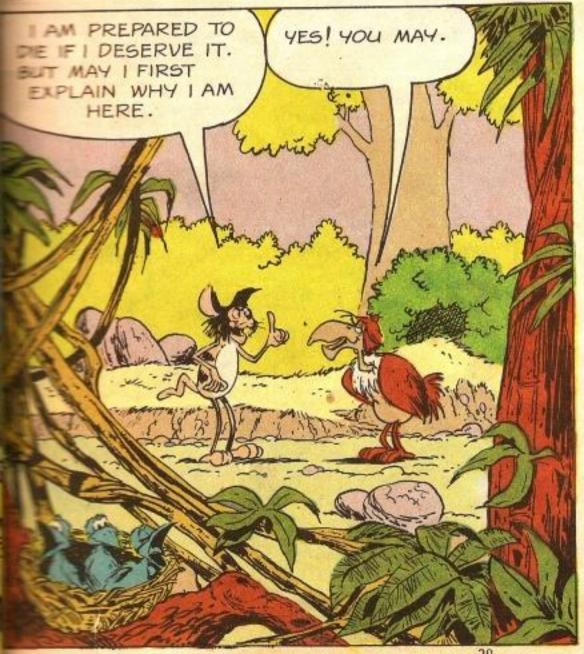








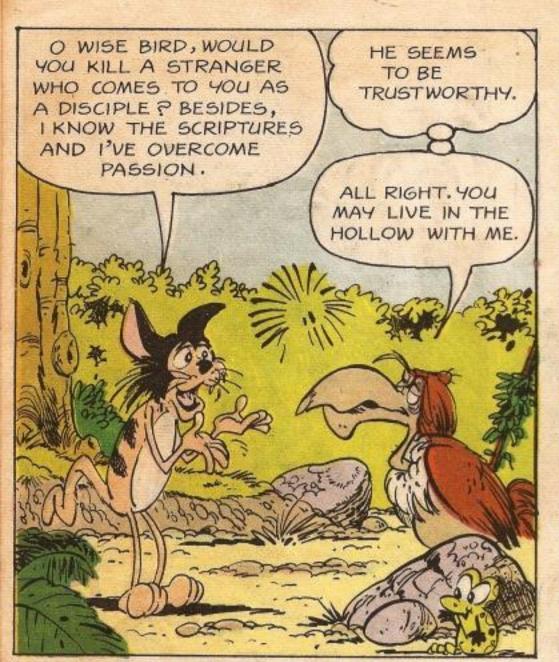




I LIVE ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGA. THE BIRDS THERE CONSTANTLY SPEAK OF YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR LEARNING . I HAVE COME TO STUDY LAW FROM YOU.

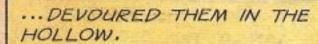
> YES. BUT CATS LIKE MEAT AND THERE ARE YOUNG BIRDS HERE. I WILL HAVE TO SLAY YOU.





DAY AFTER DAY, THE CAT STOLE



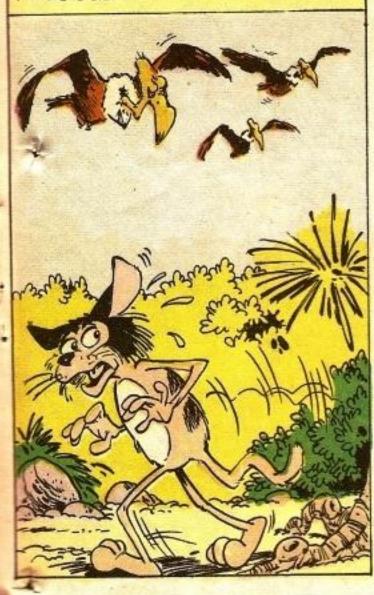




EACH EVENING WHEN THE BIRDS RETURNED HOME, THEY FOUND SOME FLEDGLINGS MISSING.



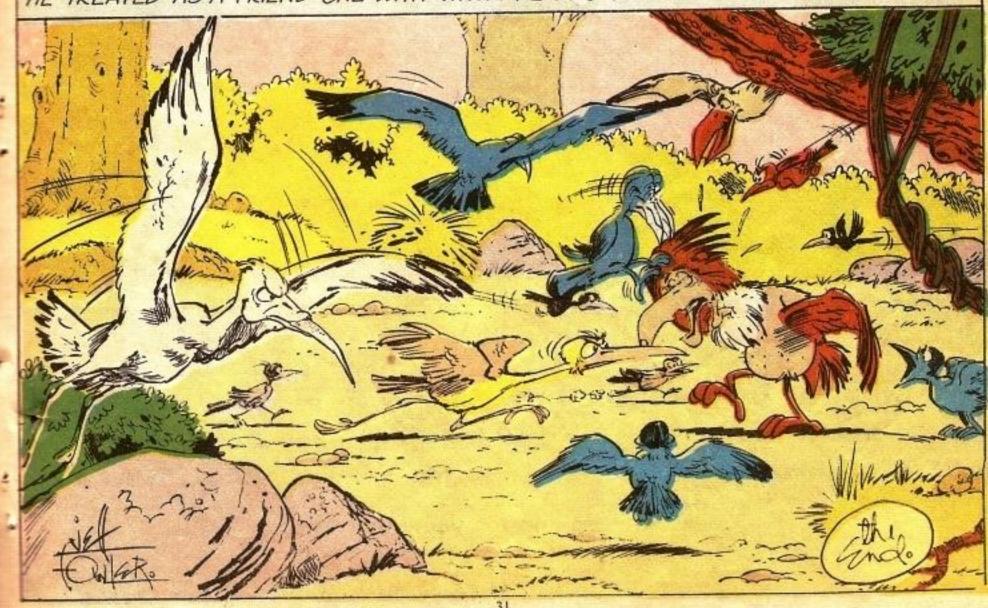
HE SLUNK AWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

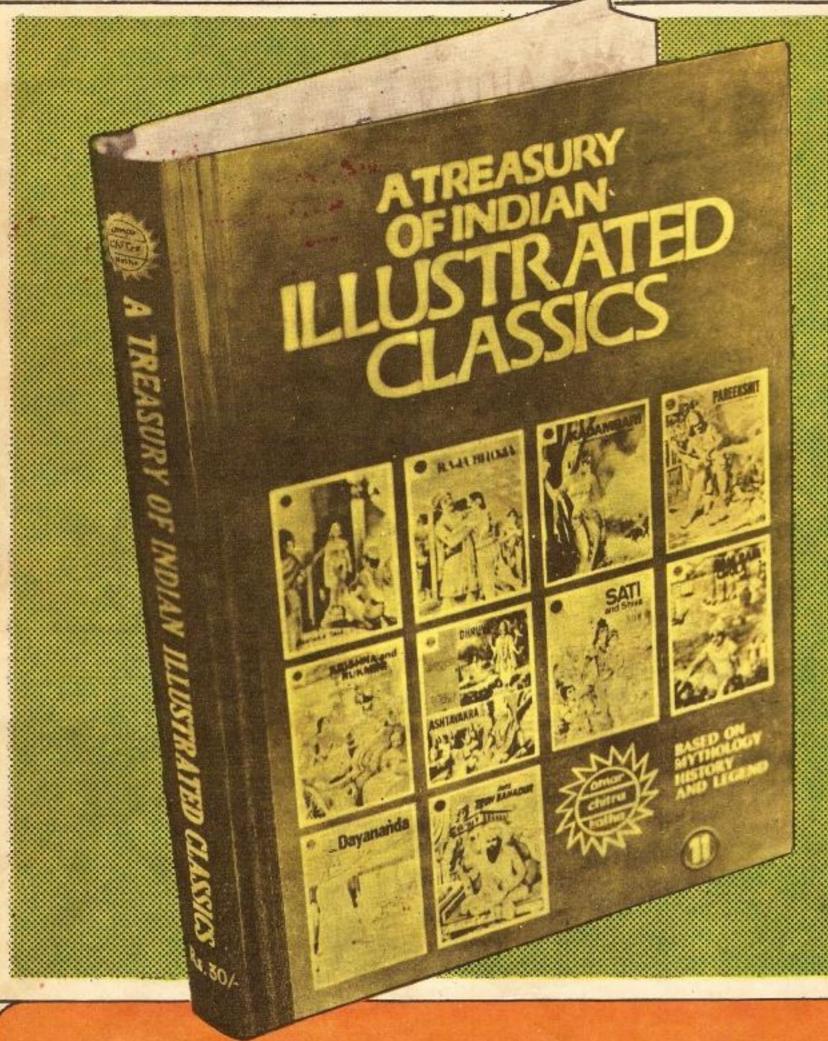


MEANWHILE AS THE BIRDS FLEW HITHER AND THITHER, ONE OF THEM CHIRRUPED LOUDLY.



SO THEY PECKED TO DEATH THE POOR VULTURE WHOSE ONLY FAULT WAS THAT HE TREATED AS A FRIEND ONE WITH WHOM HE WAS BARELY ACQUAINTED.



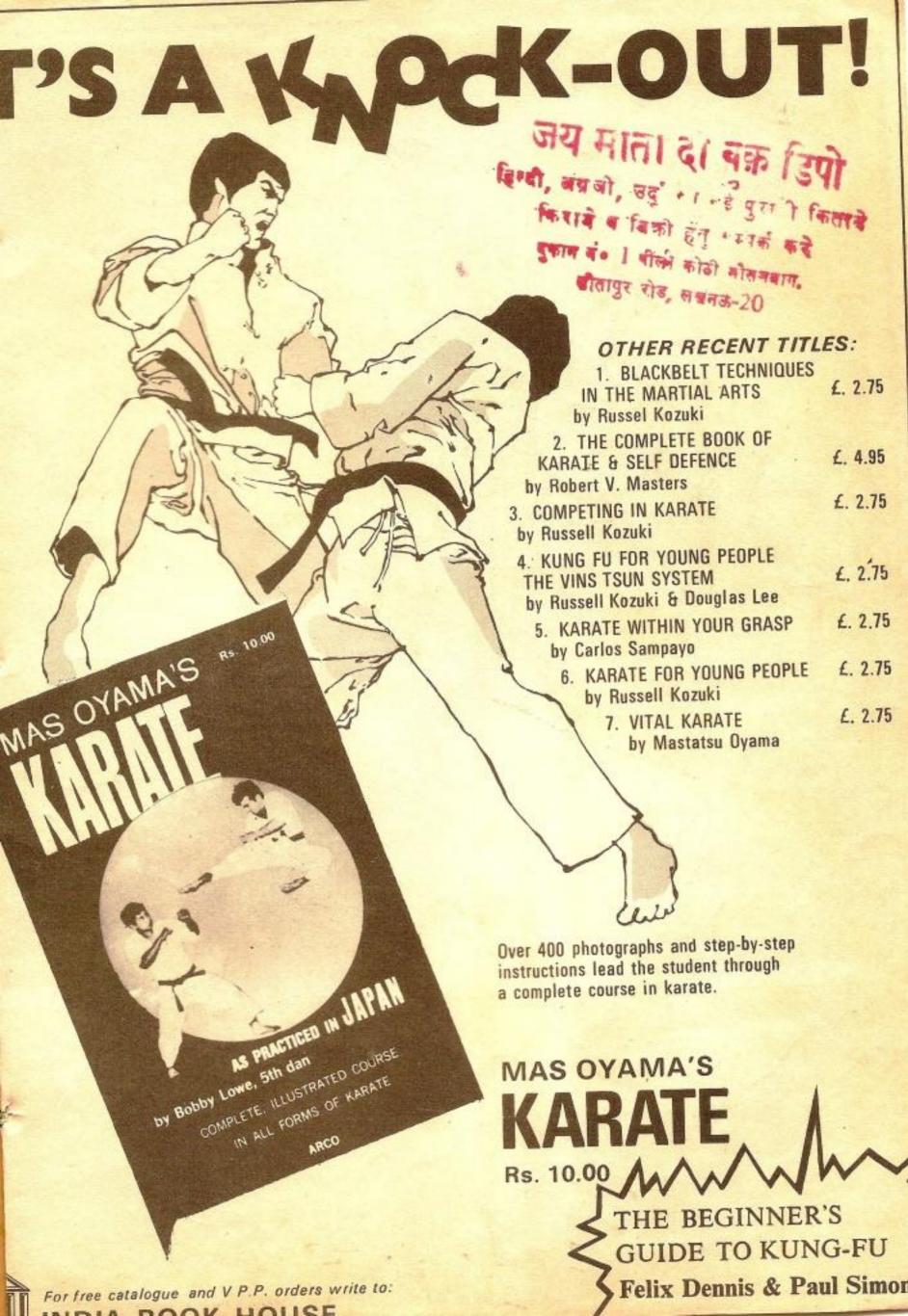


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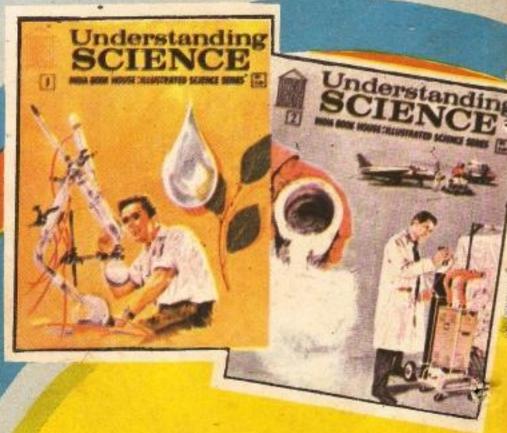




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